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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for use by a mobile station, the method comprising the step of:

negotiating a variable quality of service between a mobile station and a wireless data network, when said mobile station is connected to said wireless data network; and

wherein during said negotiation said mobile station issues a request for preferred ones of traffic classes in a priority order, wherein the request includes a quality of service information element having at least one traffic class field for conveying the request for preferred ones of traffic classes in said priority order;

wherein, when resources are unavailable for granting a first traffic class preference, said network successively checks, according to said priority order, if enough resources are available for at least one other traffic class preference without requiring additional mobile station transmissions.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the quality of service information element comprises a downgradeable quality of service class field that is indicative of ~~a request for a lower traffic class than an existing traffic class~~ that the priority order of the preferred ones of traffic classes is in an order of decreasing quality of service.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the quality of service information element comprises an upgradeable quality of service class field that is indicative of ~~a request for a higher traffic class than an existing traffic class~~ that the priority order of the preferred ones of traffic classes is in an order of increasing quality of service;

wherein said network successively checks, according to said priority order, if enough resources are available for granting at least one upgraded traffic class preference without requiring additional mobile station transmissions.

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4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the negotiating step includes the step of initiating an activate packet data protocol (PDP) context procedure that supports one of downgradeable quality of service requirements or upgradeable quality of service requirements.

6. (Previously presented) A method for use by a first packet server of a wireless network, the first packet server being any packet processor in said network, the method comprising the steps of:

the first packet server exchanging messages with a second packet server to communicate at least one service to a mobile station,

wherein the exchanging step includes the step of:

transmitting from the first packet server to the second packet server a message including a quality of service information element having a quality of service class field that is indicative of a request for preferred ones of traffic classes in a priority order, and when resources are unavailable for granting a first traffic class preference, said network successively checks, according to said priority order, if enough resources are available for at least one other traffic class preference without requiring additional transmissions.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the quality of service information element comprises a downgradeable quality of service class field that is indicative of a request for a downgradeable quality of service that the priority order of the preferred ones of traffic classes is in an order of decreasing quality of service.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the quality of service information element comprises an upgradeable quality of service class field that is indicative of a request for an upgradeable quality of service that the priority order of the preferred ones of traffic classes is in an order of increasing quality of service;

wherein said network successively checks, according to said priority order, if enough resources are available for granting at least one upgraded traffic class

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preference without requiring additional mobile station transmission.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the exchanging step includes the step of initiating an activate packet data protocol (PDP) context procedure that supports variable quality of service requirements.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) A packet server comprising:
a transceiver for exchanging messages with a second packet server for a purpose of providing at least one service to a mobile station; and
a processor for causing the second packet server to transmit a message including a quality of service information element, said element having at least one traffic class field that conveys requests for preferred ones of traffic classes in a priority order, and when resources are unavailable for granting a first traffic class preference in said request for multiple traffic classes, said processor successively checks, according to said priority order, if enough resources are available for at least one other traffic class preference without requiring additional transmissions.

15. (Previously presented) A transmission frame representing data embodied in a wireless transmission signal, the transmission frame comprising:
a quality of service class field that is indicative of a request for preferred ones of traffic classes in a priority order; and
at least one traffic class field that conveys the priority order.

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16. (Previously Presented) A method for use by a mobile station attached to a wireless network, the method comprising the step of:

requesting from said wireless network preferred ones of traffic classes in a priority order as part of a variable quality of service negotiation, and when resources are unavailable for granting a first traffic class preference, said network successively determines, according to said priority order, whether enough resources are available to provide a second traffic class preference;

wherein requesting from said wireless network preferred ones of traffic classes comprises transmitting to the wireless data network a quality of service information element having at least one quality of service class field that is indicative of a request for preferred ones of traffic classes in said priority order.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the quality of service information element is indicative of one of a request for a downgradeable quality of service or a request for an upgradeable quality of service.